

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 5 and 7 – 20 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended. It is believed that the claim amendments overcome the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In view of the amendments and arguments for patentability below, reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 – 5 and 7-20 stand rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over British Telecommunications (“Speech Mail,” British Telecommunications, 2000, Web Site, Available at <http://www.btinternet.com> and <http://www.btinternet.com/new/content/mobile/speechmail/register.html>) (“British Telecommunications”) in view of Klug U.S. Patent No. 5,790,785 (“Klug”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that the combination of British Telecommunications and Klug fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

The Examiner maintains his position that:

British Telecommunications fails to specifically recite accessing registration information for the one or more existing messaging accounts. It should be noted that it is extremely likely that British [T]elecommunications shared at least some of their stored registration information with Vocalis during the activation process since the user only provides their name, account login information, and PIN number to Vocalis in order to enable SpeechMail. Any additional information needed is most likely provided by British Telecommunications. However, even if no information was shared, it would have been an advantageous addition to the system disclosed in British Telecommunications to do so, as evidenced by Klug.

Office Action at p. 6 ¶7.

As previously argued, Applicants respectfully do not agree with the Examiner’s conclusion that it was “extremely likely” that British Telecommunications shared any registration information with Vocalis as a basis for the rejection. There is nothing in the cited literature evidencing that Vocalis obtained anything from British Telecommunications that obviated the need for the user to provide redundant registration information to Vocalis to effectuate the SpeechMail service. Furthermore, the cited reference “register[1],” found at the following web link <http://www.btinternet.com/new/content/mobile/speechmail/register.html>, requires the user to input registration information, including passwords, as explicitly stated as follows:

This form takes you through the process of registering for a new BTinternet SpeechMail account, by gathering details about you and your new account. Please complete all fields, then click on the 'Continue' button.

If you have any trouble with the registration process, please call BTinternet during normal working hours.

Your First Name	<input type="text"/>
Your dial-up account name	<input type="text"/> @btinternet.com
Your POP password	<input type="password"/>
Choose a PIN for your SpeechMail account	<input type="text"/>

<input type="button" value="Continue"/>	<input type="button" value="Clear Form"/>
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The cited registration form clearly states that “this form takes you through the process of registering for a new BTinternet SpeechMail account, *by gathering details about you and your new account...*” (emphasis added). Thus, this demonstrates that the user provides at least some of the same information to activate the SpeechMail account (e.g., name, dial-up account name, POP password). Moreover, it is unknown what additional information the user may or may not provide when “continue” is selected.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention as called for in the claims, no redundant information has to be provided to activate an enhanced service provided by a second service provider that is distinct from the first service provider. The user merely selects an auxiliary service connected to the existing messaging account such that the auxiliary service receives “...a request for activation...” and then accesses “...registration information for the one or more existing messaging accounts....” Therefore, Applicants respectfully reiterate their position that British Telecommunications does not suggest a method of providing enhanced service activation for auxiliary services where *information relating to an existing account* is utilized for providing service activation to the *auxiliary* services “so that registration information provided by the one or more account holders to the account providers that are providing the one or more existing messaging accounts to initially activate the existing messaging accounts does not have to be provided by the one or more account holders to the service providers that provide the auxiliary services to register for the auxiliary services.”

Applicants respectfully maintain their position that the Examiner’s statement “[h]owever, even if no information was shared, it would be an advantageous addition to the

system disclosed by British Telecommunications as evidenced by Klug,” is a conclusion that merely attempts to reach the advantage provided by the present invention without any support for such a combination of references.

The Examiner cites to Klug as follows:

Klug teaches a system for storing user account registration information at one location and sharing that information with other service providers upon request of the user, dramatically reducing the number of times that a user must enter registration information to access various services (at least Col 1, Line 60 to Col 2, Line 19). By saving the information at the central location, additional services can be activated without requiring redundant input of registration information. This would have been an advantageous addition to the system disclosed by British Telecommunications since it would have allowed the user to activate the SpeechMail service without requiring redundant input of data.

Office Action at p. 6.

Applicants submit that Klug is directed to a completely different endeavor. In Klug, a system is disclosed for assisting web users to provide registration information that is previously provided to a *central registration website* to be subsequently provided to a “new website cooperating with the registration process of the present invention.” See Col. 2, lines 24 – 38. Specifically, users are directed to a “registrar web site 100” that enables subsequent registration at various third party web sites 116 that are affiliated with the registrar site 100 when the user submits a response to a third party site 116 requesting that registration information be obtained from the registrar site 100. See Col. 4, line 60 – Col. 5, line 7.

The foregoing has nothing to do with a method of providing enhanced service activation for *auxiliary services* by an account holder of an existing messaging account with a first provider, where the auxiliary services are provided by a second service provider in the context of the present invention. The fact that a plurality of websites may be linked, as in Klug, with a single registration site, is not relevant to the current invention. In accordance with the instant claims, a first service provider confers the option to a user to obtain an auxiliary service through an expedited registration procedure that utilizes information related to the first service so that the user does not have to enter redundant information to register with the second (auxiliary) service. In Klug, user identification, passwords and personal information such as, for example, city of residence and family size (see Col. 1, lines 45 – 47) are merely stored in a central registration site that may be accessed by unrelated websites that cooperate with the central site to retrieve the

user's personal information. *The central registration site disclosed in Klug does not provide a messaging service or in fact, any other service beyond the registration function.* Neither does Klug itself provide a user with an option to select an auxiliary service. Thus, Klug contains no teaching or suggestion of enabling auxiliary service registration to be performed by a service provider accessing the registration information of an existing messaging account or some other first service that provides the option to obtain auxiliary services.

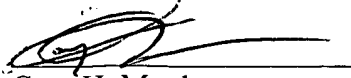
It is well settled that there must be some suggestion or motivation to combine references and that it is impermissible to pick and choose features from the prior art using Applicants' claims as a roadmap. As set forth above, there is nothing that supports the conclusion that British Telecommunications shared information with its SpeechMail provider Vocalis to obviate the need for the user to repeat redundant information in the registration process for SpeechMail. The Examiner's contention that it would be "advantageous" to do so does not remedy this deficiency. Furthermore, Klug is directed to a different problem as explained above. Although Applicants believe that these references aren't even combinable, Applicants reiterate their contention that, even if, assuming *arguendo*, this combination would be proper, such juxtaposition might arguably provide a system wherein a subscriber to the messaging accounts with the first provider and the auxiliary services with a second provider registers with a third party registration service (as taught by Klug), not an expedient where a first provider of a messaging account(s) enables a second provider *of an auxiliary service* to obtain registration information *from the first provider*.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable over the combination of British Telecommunications and Klug, and that those claims that ultimately depend from claim 1 are patentable for at least the same reasons. It is further submitted that independent claims 7 and 12, which contain similar features are patentable for the same reasons, and that those claims that ultimately depend from claims 7 and 12 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to AT&T Corp. Account No. 01-2745. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (908) 707-1573 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Kocheisen, et al.
By:

Date: 6/6/06



Gary H. Monka
Registration No. 35,290
Attorney for Applicant

Canavan & Monka, LLC.
250 State Route 28, Suite 207
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807
(908) 707-1573